

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 7 are pending in the application.

By the foregoing Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claim 7 is added. Claims 4-6 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that diameter of 70 micrometer or less, which is not taught by the prior art, as discussed below. Claim 7 has been added to restore the subject matter canceled by the preliminary amendment submitted on filing of the application.

These changes are believed not to introduce new matter, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections, and withdraw them.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-3 were rejected under section 102(b) as being anticipated by British patent application No. 2,203,342 of Ellis ("Ellis"). This rejection is believed to be overcome by the amendment to claim 1.

Ellis is directed to a soft-tissue implant for medical use and corresponds to the prior art described in the present application at page 1, lines 25-28. Ellis teaches that gold wire having a diameter of 0.1 to 0.5 mm (that is, 100 to 500 micrometers) can be woven to create the metallic material. The metallic material woven from a gold wire having a diameter of 0.1 to 0.5 mm will probably be a coarse and stiff metal net not suitable for use in, for example, garniture.

The woven fabric as recited in amended claim 1 is described in embodiment 6 in table 1 and at page 10, lines 13-17 of the present application. In contrast to Ellis's material, in the woven fabric as recited in amended claim 1, at least one of the warp and weft is a noble monofilament having a diameter of 70 micrometers or less. Such a woven fabric will be thin and elastic, and suitable for use in, for example, garniture.

Ellis does not teach or suggest a woven fabric in which at least one of the warp and weft is a noble monofilament having a diameter of 70 micrometers or less. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the invention as recited in amended claim 1, and claims 2, 3, and 7 depending therefrom, is patentable over Ellis, and that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All rejections have been complied with, properly traversed, or rendered moot. Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for allowance. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative so that this case may receive an early Notice of Allowance.

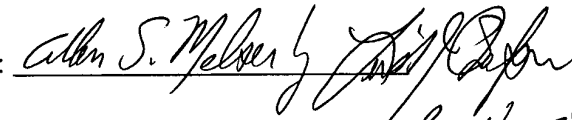
Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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